(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no other park in the area to supply fresh and pollution free air,

(d) whether the approval of the Environment and Forest Ministry has been solicited for the purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (e) As intimated by the Forest Department, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, there is no such proposal with the Forest Department. It has further been intimated that the Forest Department co-ordinates with all greening agencies like, Central Public Works Department, Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation Delhi etc. to ensure free plantation on available vacant lands in Delhi to increase forest cover for fresh and pollution free air.

Felling of trees in forests

†1758. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the villagers under Kavardha Forest division of Chhattisgarh State have dug a canal collectively inside the forest area and thousands of trees have been cut down illegally;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the indifferent attitude of the administration and non-cooperation by the Departments, the Indian Forest Conservation Act, 1980 had been violated and the said work was allowed;

(c) if so, present status thereof and the details of the action taken by the Departments;

(d) species-wise number and cost of the trees which have been cut down; and

(e) steps taken by Government against the guilties?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The main species of trees which have been cut down are Bija, Saja, Tinsa. Dhawada, Haldu. Mundi, Khamar, Saliha. Mode and other miscellaneous species. The total number of trees are 1246 and their value is Rs. 4,89,312.

(e) The department had registered preliminary offence reports against one Shri Ayyub Khan of Rangakharkhurd viHage of Kavardha District and others who were leading the villagers in this illegal act under section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, section 27 and 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and section 2 a (ii) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The case was put up before the competent Court at Kavardha on 13.12.2002 and the prosectuion was launched against offenders. Criminal case was registered against main offenders when they prevented forest officials to perform their duties of seizing the felled trees at the site, at Kavardha Police Station under section 341,186 and 147 of the Indian Penal Code. Police arrested Shri Ayyub Khan, the main offender and two others on 19.2.2003 and sent them in judicial custody. Prosection proceedings are in progress against main offenders in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kavardha.

Pollution in Kanpur

1759. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kanpur is most polluted city in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to check pollution and improve the air quality in Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Kanpur is identified as one of the polluted cities as per the Supreme Court's order dated 9th